

it in their power to injure him for voting contrary to their wishes. Now there are some thirty states in which the secret ballot law is in force. In some of these states the law is not up to the standard established by this order, but these laws should be amended—none of them should be repealed. There must be no backward steps taken on this great question. It is the opinion of your general master workman that we should go still farther in advocating the passage of election laws which will render it impossible for any man to vote unless he can read his ballot.

A FURTHER VOTING REFORM WANTED.

"We have no guarantee under any of the ballot reform laws that the uneducated voter may not dispose of his vote in such a manner as to work injury to the community. The illiterate voter is certainly at the mercy of some other person when casting his ballot, and if it is proper for me to call in another to prepare for me my ballot, it is just as equitable for me to send in that other person to vote in my stead. Under the law which was prepared by the general executive board some years ago, the right of the illiterate citizen was guarded, but that feature of our law was not adopted by any of the state legislatures. I am well aware that objections will be raised against depriving the man who cannot read of the right to vote; but it must not be forgotten that we continue to deny to women who can read the right to a voice in public affairs, and we do without referring in apology for the continuance of the wrong. That no injustice may be done, it would be well to fix a day in the future—say five years from the date of the passage of the law—after which no person should be allowed to vote unless qualified to do so by being able to read his ballot. There are those who would establish a property qualification for the citizen, but we should oppose such an innovation with all the strength we possess.

This nation must depend for its life on the intelligence of its citizens, and it is essential that in educational qualification take the place of the system now practiced. Once the citizen learns to read his ballot, he will take more interest in it, and will be anxious to study the principles of the parties which appeal to him for support. No matter how intelligently the illiterate citizen may dispose of his ballot, he does it on the strength of what he is told and not on what he knows. His illiteracy gives some other man the privilege of voting twice. I recommend that the general assembly take action on this matter. Under the operations of the secret voting law we can more readily get the sense of the masses on the subject of submitting all laws to the people for agitation and discussion before adoption.

TOO MUCH LEGISLATION.

The last session of the Congress of the United States witnessed the introduction, I am informed, of thousands of resolutions, each one bearing on the welfare of the people. If one thousand laws and resolutions are passed by a session of Congress, a like number by each state legislature, a number of others by our county and municipal governments, and a number of judicial decisions piled on top of these, it becomes a physical impossibility for the average citizen, whether worker or not, to acquaint himself with the tenor or import of these laws. Not one of the congressmen who sat in the last Congress can repeat the enacting clause even of one of the laws on which he voted. A majority of that body were lawyers. Each one will unhesitatingly take a case against a poor man who may have to work from 8 to 16 hours a day. He will tell that poor man that "ignorance of law is no excuse," while he cannot tell the names of all the laws he himself voted for. The right to initiate laws is inherent in the people, the right to discuss on all laws is a natural right.

"Our brothers of Switzerland have made more rapid progress toward an ideal Democracy than we have in the United States, notwithstanding our boasted civilization and advancement. All along the line an agitation and education should begin on this great issue. It goes home to the hearts of the people; it touches them in their pockets as in their hearts. It relates to their financial and social interests. I ask that a committee on initiative and referendum be appointed here for the purpose of presenting a plan on which agitation of this question may be carried on during the coming year. As a side in this direction it was deemed wise to ask the order to vote for those whom they would prefer as general officers. The initiative step was not encouraging for the reason that not enough of thought was given to the subject by our local assemblies. Many thought that the general officers desired a vote of confidence or some such thing, but the great idea itself was overlooked. This general assembly should take decisive action in that question." The system now growing prevalent of a secret ballot in elections was warmly extolled and its improvement advocated. Much space was devoted to the question of immigration, saying thereon in part:

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RESTRICTION OF IMMIGRATION.

"Some six years ago your general master workman declared that he was in favor of the restriction of immigration. The views then expressed were not received with favor by the order, but notwithstanding that fact his sentiments have not changed since then unless it be in the direction of a more rigid exclusion of immigrants than he then favored. We may adopt short hour laws in every state as well as the nation, we may fix wage scales throughout the land, we may enact protective tariffs into the articles of foreign manufacture are prohibited, but while the tide of immigration flows on in an uninterrupted stream, there will be no dependence upon short hour laws, no reliance on wage scales, and there can be no protection to American labor that will keep the status of American workmen higher than his brother who lives under the weight of centuries of monarchical misrule. Your general master workman has no hesitation in saying that he favors the total exclusion of all immigrants who are not self-sustaining on landing in this country. He would fix a term of years—ten would be long enough—during which time no immigrant should be permitted to land with a view to remaining, unless he could prove that he had sufficient means to sustain himself and those depending on him for one year.

"Unworthy motives may be attributed to me because of these sentiments, but they are honestly entertained and such construction as may be placed on them will not change my mind, for I foresee great danger, not alone to labor, but to the whole country, if the immigration question is not carefully and heroically handled in the near future. It may sound exceedingly well to assert that we have room for all the world; that it would be un-Christian to debar others from the benefits we enjoy. There is less danger of debarring them from these benefits than that there is that they will take the enjoyment of these enjoyments, of these benefits from all us. I have re-

peatedly said that it is not to the interest of the immigrant or those who preceded him to land here without money, without friends and without a knowledge of the conditions which he must face in his struggle for bread. It is not because he cannot earn a livelihood in his own land that the foreigner comes here; it is because the institutions of greed of older growth have taken deeper root.

"The capacity of employers of labor, the greed of the owners of steamships, and the moral cowardice of our public men have prevented the enactment of legislation which would have long since relieved the strain. We can better afford to aid the European in battling down the institutions which crush him at home than to continue a system which will inevitably reduce our own workmen to a worse condition than those now experienced abroad by those who are looking to this land for relief. What will you do on the immigration question on strikes and lockouts?"

RECENT OCCURRENCES.

"During the last six months the people of this land have witnessed such attempts at making the power of exaggerated wealth supreme as were never dreamed of before. Whether it be at Coudersville, at Homestead, at Buffalo, or in Tennessee, the instinct which guided the rapacious hand was the same. The underground wire which detected the attack ran to the same center from all of these places. Centralized wealth drew the scattering fire of divided labor, and as a natural result labor lost in each battle. If the lessons are carefully taken to heart the sacrifices may not be in vain. The campaign which just closed witnessed a very interesting, if not intelligent, discussion of the tariff, but there is more of a revenue illegally drawn from the pockets of merchants, manufacturers and workmen in one month of the year by the railroads and telegraphs than we pay in tariffs for a year.

"These and all other questions connected with them must occupy the attention of industrial organizations of the future, and the strike of the future must be a strike for the rule of the people. We cannot decrier politics as we please, but we must be politicians or the slaves of politicians. We may shirk our responsibilities of a citizen, but we are only piling high the wrath which follows neglect of duty. In a word, we must be law-makers or law-breakers. When we in the last extremity are driven close to the wall and deprived of right and privilege, it is done through the law. If the law is obscure or defective, a hiring judge can always be found to construe in favor of the wealthy as against the poor. If every citizen of Pennsylvania understood and knew his rights; if he performed his duty under the law intelligently and as he ought to, no judge would dare charge treason against workmen who but struggled for recognition. The battle of the future must be fought out on different lines from those which marked the shifting progress of the past. These lines must diverge from and centre at the ballot box. Not slaves to party bent on obeying the will of a boss or master, but as free men, who value freedom and would maintain it should we vote."

The speaker advocated affiliation with the farmers' alliances and other similar organizations; recommended the organization of social or beneficial features of the order, and in conclusion said that he knew of nothing he had done during the year that he would not do over again under similar circumstances.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

The general executive committee, in its general report, approves the plan adopted last year of requiring each member in good standing to pay five cents to a fund for the payment of railway expenses of delegates. The case of the suit brought against the order by William Whitty, of Amsterdam, N. Y., for an alleged claim for goods furnished strikers in 1888-87, was detailed, the board stating that while victorious it would have been cheaper for the order from a financial standpoint to have settled the claim, but the report says there is evidence conclusive that the case was but a part of a plot by which the enemies of the order hoped to continue its ruin, and your board believe that had the case been settled in any other way there would have been brought a series of iniquitous claims we would have been called upon to defend.

Much space is devoted to the review of the trouble with the combine of clothing manufacturers at Rochester, N. Y., and the effort that has been made to settle it.

The trouble between the Knights of Labor and the World's Columbian Exposition was given at great length, together with the efforts made by the knights to settle the difficulty. It was stated that all local assemblies were, by a circular emanating from the board, urged to press upon their members in Congress that no money should be appropriated for the exposition until the labor question was settled.

The report then continues: "The local assemblies promptly acted, with the result that the proposition to appropriate \$5,000,000 was voted down. Another conference between the board and the exposition was then held with the result that a satisfactory settlement was secured, and an agreement entered into which, it is believed, will prevent future trouble. The house and senate conference committees were then told that all difficulties were settled, and that the opposition to an appropriation removed." The question of the securing of land by the order in that members may be assisted to procure homes was mentioned, warning being given against the introduction of any plan which might be adopted of speculative features.

Another paragraph of the report spoke of the laws regarding employers' liability in case of accident to employees. It was stated that hardly any of these were as fair to the employees as to the employers, but that even in states where the laws were nearest to making just compensation for injuries, the laws were practically inoperative, as workmen did not have the means to carry their cases to court, and were therefore compelled to accept any proposition for settlement, no matter how flagrantly unjust. The recommendation is made that the order keep on trying for the enactment of such laws, but it is stated that a far better plan would be the establishment of a protective insurance society or the assistance of the establishment of such laws whereby means may be provided members to prosecute careless or negligent employers.

SECRETARY HAYES' REPORT.

The report of General Secretary and Treasurer Hayes begins with a statement of the condition of the benefit insurance feature of the order's work, which owing to lack of support by the members has not been very successful. He urges the delegates to adopt measures to arouse the interest of the membership in this part of the work of the order.

His financial statement shows that, including the balance on hand at the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1, 1891, the total receipts of the order has been \$60,614.19, and the total expenditures \$59,748.82, leaving a balance on hand July 1, 1892, of \$865.37. He ex-

plains that there have been several extraordinary payments during the past year, caused by defending lawsuits, which, though all decided in the order's favor, have entailed heavy costs.

The report shows that the membership of the order has increased slightly during the past year and is now over 200,000 members in good standing. Except slight balances due some of the general officers on salary, the general order is entirely out of debt, all its property, including the general headquarters in Philadelphia, some coal mining property in Indiana and other property in this state and elsewhere, is fully paid for, and foots up a total value of in the neighborhood of \$100,000.

Mr. Hayes congratulates the order on its satisfactory financial standing and expresses the belief that all indications point out to a bright future.

The address and reports were referred to the committee on distribution; this committee will send to the various standing committees such parts of them as come within the province to report upon.

The afternoon session was devoted to the report of the committee on laws, which was made as soon as the session was called to order. The suggestions of the committee were taken up one by one and discussed by various members, and this discussion will be continued until all are disposed of. The proposition to insert a clause in the platform providing for the use of the referendum scheme was, after much discussion, adopted. Another proposition was adopted providing for the establishment of an employment bureau by the order.

A suggestion that there be stricken out of the platform the plank providing for a graduated income tax aroused considerable discussion, and instead of being the suggestion adopted the plank was made all the stronger by the adoption of an amendment providing also for a tax on inheritance. Several minor matters of interest only to the initiated were also disposed of.

AN INTERRUPTED WEDDING.

A Building Collapses and Nine Persons Are Killed and Thirty Wounded.

MADRID, Nov. 16.—A sad story of the fatal interruption of wedding festivities is reported from Bejarva, town forty-five miles south of Salamanca. A young couple had been married and the wedding party had gone to a restaurant where the wedding feast was served. Everybody was in the highest of spirits. After the banquet dancing was begun and everything was progressing smoothly when suddenly and without an instant's warning the walls of the building collapsed. The entire party, together with the employees of the restaurant, were buried in the ruins.

A crowd soon gathered and the work of rescue soon began. They soon came across the terribly crushed and mangled body of one of the wedding guests. It was removed and laid on the sidewalk. Soon several persons who had been caught by the falling timbers were taken out alive, but badly injured. When the wreck was cleared away sufficiently for it to be known there was no one else in the ruins, nine bodies were lying in a ghastly row on the sidewalk. The injured numbered thirty, some of whom it is thought will not recover. It is supposed that the movements of the dancers were responsible for the collapse.

Yellow Fever Epidemic.

NEW YORK, Nov. 16.—A letter received by James Gallagher, of this city, today, from a friend in Cordoba, Mexico, gives a most distressing account of the state of affairs there. Yellow fever has raged with awful violence and carried away almost 1,000 of the people of the town. Most of the inhabitants have fled to the mountains to escape the plague. On the day when the letter was written, the writer said the only living beings that could be seen in the streets were a few convicts, who had been pressed in service for carrying the dead. Trade has been utterly paralyzed. Cordoba is a pretty little town in the heart of the Orizaba mountains, Mexico. It has about 4,000 inhabitants.

Railway Roadmasters.

CINCINNATI, O., Nov. 16.—This morning there are in the city 150 members of the order of Railway Roadmasters, who will meet in their tenth annual session this afternoon at Atlanta. This morning an organization meeting was held, and after hearing the report of Captain Reilly, of Grand Rapids, who is the head of the order, committees were appointed in the various matters of business that will come up at the meeting in Atlanta. The order has a membership of over 5,000, and its annual meetings are held to discuss the best methods on road building, ballasting, rail laying, etc.

This Ought to Settle It.

KENOSHA, Wis., Nov. 16.—Philip G. Pabst and Margaret Finlayson (Margaret Mather) were married by Rev. Frank A. Pease, a Methodist minister of this city, July 26 last, with no thought of who the parties were. The records show the marriage to have taken place on that date. At the time of the marriage no request to keep it secret was made, but at a later date, when Pabst and Pease met on the train, the request was made. This was some weeks after the marriage had been performed.

HAVE used Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil for croup and colds, and declare it a positive cure. Contributed by Wm. Kay, 570 Plymouth Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.

TRY Cosgrave Brewing Co.'s ales and porters; they are best.



Mr. L. B. Hamlen, Of Augusta, Me., says: "I do not remember when I began to take Hood's Sarsaparilla; it was several years ago, and I have found it does me a great deal of good in my declining years."

I am 91 Years

2 months and 20 days old, and my health is perfectly good. I have no aches or pains about me.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

regulates my bowels, stimulates my appetite, and helps me to sleep well. I doubt if a preparation ever was made so well suited to the wants of old people. L. B. HAMLEN, Elm Street, Augusta, Me., Sept. 26, 1891.

HOOD'S PILLS are a mild, gentle, painless, safe and efficient cathartic. Always reliable.

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THEY ARE MARRIED.

And we furnished their house. Newly married people will find our store an emporium of

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Of every description. We have the kind that will make a home look grand, or cozy or comfortable.

ALL DESIGNS NEW. ALL MATERIAL FASHIONABLE.

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SPECIAL fair weather followed by Bright Days during life IF YOU TAKE THE DUNCAN GOLD CURE

Treatment for the cure of the

Liquor, Opium, Cocaine and Tobacco Habits or Other Narcotic Poisons.

FIRST—WE GUARANTEE A CURE.

SECOND—We build up our patient from the inception of our treatment.

THIRD—We give no shock to the system.

FOURTH—Our treatment renovates the system.

FIFTH—Our treatment does not disable the patient from pursuing his ordinary vocation while undergoing it.

SIXTH—It is absolutely free from danger to life or faculties.

SEVENTH—The Liquor Habit cured by three weeks' treatment.

EIGHTH—The Opium, Morphine or Cocaine Habits cured in four weeks.

NINTH—The Tobacco and Cigarette Habit cured AT YOUR HOME in two weeks.

TENTH—Money refunded if no cure effected if patient follows the treatment.

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Miss LUTIE CARSON, of Sur-

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